



Daily Report

West Europe

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Belgium

Belgium: Derycke Discusses U.S. Power, Mideast Peace

BR1303161396 Brussels KNACK in Dutch
13-19 Mar 96 p 119

[Interview with Belgian Foreign Minister Erik Derycke by Paul Goossens; place and date not given: "Europe Pays, America Decides"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Why am I coming under fire and not the Syrian president, the leaders of the Gulf states, or King Husayn of Jordan? And why does everybody forget that Israel previously played the vile trick of helping build up Hamas?" This is what Foreign Minister Erik Derycke of the SP [Dutch-speaking Socialist Party] heard after midnight on Sunday [10 March] from an annoyed, very excited, and dog-tired Yasir 'Arafat. At 'Arafat's heavily guarded headquarters in Gaza Derycke had to wait several minutes while 'Arafat delivered his tirade before he could himself offer a word of explanation and smooth over the differences. When the two emerged over an hour later they were not dissatisfied. The next day Derycke left Gaza early, bound for Tel Aviv and Brussels. During his whirlwind visit to Israel and Gaza Derycke made clear to Shim'on Peres and 'Arafat, the two key players in the peace process, exactly what the European Union had decided in Palermo the previous day.

[Goossens] Yet again Europe is on the defensive. The conference at Sharm al-Shaykh was an American initiative.

[Derycke] Indeed, we must yet again conclude that this is the case. Intellectually I have no problem with this. I am enough of a realist to know where the real power in the world lies: in the United States.

[Goossens] And the situation is not improving.

[Derycke] I do not believe so, unless we are able to thoroughly reform Europe's foreign and security policy with the review of the Treaty on the European Union. In the meantime we must be realistic and pragmatic. There is no point in claiming what is not true. When internationally important matters are to be decided, then you need the Americans. That is a fact. It was good that the Americans reacted quickly to the Hamas terrorist attacks, as otherwise the peace process was sunk. At the meeting of foreign ministers in Palermo there was once again a good deal of whining and self-pity. Once again we were complaining that we decide little or nothing but pay for everything.

[Goossens] Which is true.

[Derycke] Yes, but there is a difference between paying and taking political action. We fail to do the latter because we lack coherence. As long as there is no reform of the second foreign policy pillar, we will continue to pay while the real decisions are made elsewhere.

[Goossens] Is that the new world order: Europe pays, America decides?

[Derycke] It is in a certain sense. Europe must not overestimate itself.

[Goossens] How did Peres react to the Palermo statement?

[Derycke] He was pleased, despite the fact that this is not a pro-Israeli position. I also made this clear to 'Arafat. We are calling for Israel to loosen the blockade so that the Palestinians are no longer economically strangled.

[Goossens] Europe supports Peres, as otherwise the Likud will win the elections?

[Derycke] Even Likud cannot totally undo the peace process. There is a demand in Israel and in Palestine to put an end to the suffering. The opinion polls show that the desire for peace among the Israeli population is much broader than the support which Peres can count on.

[Goossens] 'Arafat seemed very tired and Peres also seemed very shaken.

[Derycke] It was very tense. It is almost impossible to work under these circumstances and under such pressure. These are two very great figures and I believe that very few people could do this. In fact it means that they must set aside any personal perspective.

[Goossens] 'Arafat was not very friendly. At one point he was almost brutal.

[Derycke] He felt that he had been treated discourteously, as the others, such as Husayn, were not targeted. It almost seems as if he took this as a personal affront. After half an hour we succeeded in calming him down. "I will not go down on my knees for Europe," he said. I then reminded him of Belgian policy. We come to offer help as a friendly nation, asking nobody to go down on their knees, and with no preconceptions. Not of the Israelis and not of the Palestinians. As a small country we succeeded in conducting a dialogue with both countries.

[Goossens] Do not people expect too much from 'Arafat? How can he stop the terror when Belgium is unable to find the killer of [former SP Party Leader] Andre Cools or to uncover the secret behind the Nivelles gang?

and surrounds himself with officers who do not beat about the bush when it comes to expressing divergent opinions. One thing should be clear, however: Van den Breemen is in charge.

In the political commotion around the fall of Srebrenica, Defense Minister Voorhoeve reorganized his ministry's highest ranks. Since that time Van den Breemen is in charge of peacekeeping operations in his capacity of chief of defense staff. However, there are persistent rumors within the Army top that the decision has not changed anything in practice. Even worse, it is whispered that the reorganization is merely an empty gesture intended to soothe the Lower Chamber.

"This is absolutely untrue," Van den Breemen reacts with indignation. "Just ask General Coopmans and Lieutenant Colonel Damen who is in charge here! I have the formal command of all peacekeeping missions. This means that I order the commanders to do certain things. Even if I delegate tasks to the Army commanders, I remain in charge. And that is very different from how it used to be."

It is no coincidence that Van den Breemen pays regular calls on Coopmans and Damen, the contingent commander and battalion commander who are in charge of the Netherlands operations in Bosnia. Coopmans, for one, informs Van den Breemen on a daily basis. Van den Breemen in turn keeps the minister informed, especially on politically tricky issues.

Says Van den Breemen pensively: "The funny thing is that the situation has a schizophrenic side. On the one hand, one should not burden the political leaders with common details. On the other hand, insignificant details can suddenly take huge political proportions."

The general considers it to be his duty to present a clear military vision to The Hague, "in a language and in a way which can be understood by politicians." It is up to the politicians then to say what they expect from the Army.

[Van Osselen] Was this not difficult with UNPROFOR's [United Nations Protection Force] approach?

[Van den Breemen] It was extremely complicated. Because afterwards the concept turned out to be wrong. The discussion about political and military arguments must be held between the interested parties.

For the rest, the Navy General prefers to look ahead. "We are dealing with IFOR now, no longer with UNPROFOR."

[Van Osselen] Is IFOR NATO's first test?

[Van den Breemen] It certainly is for NATO's new role. I think NATO can be very pleased with IFOR's military operations. So far all goals have been achieved.

And the general adds: "I think we could not have done it without the Americans."

[Van Osselen] Is this European dependence on a United States which is increasingly isolating itself from the rest of the world not alarming?

[Van den Breemen] It illustrates the European countries' lack of consensus. I think it is important to achieve European cooperation in the field of defense. We must show the United States that Europe can look after itself.

To begin with, one could start cooperating with other countries. The Netherlands is a good example of this. Indeed, we already have various partnership agreements.

According to Van den Breemen, the Netherlands scores well within NATO, and that is important: "It means that both a country's contribution and the country itself are credible."

Netherlands: Editorial Opposes Arming of Bosnian Muslims

BR1403082696 Rotterdam ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD
in Dutch 13 Mar 96 p 9

[Editorial: "Wrong Aid to Muslims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to give in to anti-Serb feelings in the U.S. Congress, the United States is thinking of providing hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to the Muslim-Croatian Federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This would be a very unfortunate kind of aid to a country disrupted by war. Priority should be given to reconstruction. The badly needed funds for this reconstruction become available in driplets, in spite of UN Coordinator Carl Bildt's unrelenting efforts. The U.S. initiative has met with the European Union's disapproval. Additional weapons are the last thing Bosnia needs, it argues. The EU feels so strongly about it that it might boycott a conference in Turkey on the issue, or only send observers.

In addition, the premature promise of military aid by the United States sends the wrong signals to the participants in the regional talks on arms control, which are already advancing with difficulty as it is.

The Americans argue that armament in Bosnia should be reduced, but that the federation's security must simultaneously be secured by improving the quality of the future Bosnian forces. They nourish the dangerous thought that an outburst of an armed conflict in Bosnia can be prevented through a military balance, once IFOR's [Implementation Force] 60,000 military will have left at the end of the year.

outcome in the WTO talks underway in Geneva on telecommunications services and maritime transport.

What I do not accept is that there is a single path towards global free trade. That effort made outside the WTO is effort wasted. On the contrary, I am convinced that regional initiatives, if they are compatible with WTO rules, can be valuable building-blocks to wider progress. In Europe the Single Market has changed the climate of political opinion on the benefit of free trade. It has opened new trade opportunities for third countries too. Europe still has more to do. But we are heading in the right direction. Transatlantic liberalisation can take us further down the path.

Let me be clear: the last thing I want is for the transatlantic partnership to turn inward, away from the rest of the world. The Action Plan agreed at the EU/U.S. Summit in December recognised that European and American economies are inextricably linked. But the size and global interests of our economies mean that what we do affects profoundly the rest of the world. The transatlantic partners therefore have a special responsibility to work together to strengthen the multilateral trading system; and to lead the way in opening markets world-wide to trade and investment.

These are the reasons I am committed to extending transatlantic free trade. It offers real benefits and opportunities, for the consumer, the taxpayer and for business itself. So I hope I can count on the support of business itself in pursuing this goal.

UK: Government Considering Reaction to Taiwan Tension

LD1303133896 London PRESS ASSOCIATION
in English 1248 GMT 13 Mar 96

[By David Cracknell, Political Staff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A "terrible accident" could happen if China's missile tests off Taiwan went wrong, a senior minister warned today. Foreign Office Minister of State Jeremy Hanley said although there was no imminent threat of invasion to the island, "accidents can happen". Mr Hanley said the Government was considering what Britain's reaction would be if the tension in the region escalated, but refused to be drawn on the details.

His warning came as China test-fired a fourth missile off Taiwan, triggering US anger over "provocation" as Beijing increased its intimidation of the island it accuses of rebellion.

"The actions by the Chinese are an overreaction, are extremely dangerous, could lead to a terrible accident or worse," Mr Hanley told the Commons Foreign Affairs

Select Committee. "However, they are consistent with what the Chinese have done in the past as soon as the threat — as far as they're concerned — of independence is raised."

Mr Hanley said: "We actually at the moment, on balance, don't believe that there is an imminent threat to the security of Taiwan. But, of course, tension is damaging. It's damaging to all in the broader context of the region and, because of the actions the Chinese are choosing to take, accidents can happen. And, if one is firing missiles across land, one never knows when such a thing could lead to a terrible mistake."

Mr Hanley said it was important not to overreact to China's actions, saying that "sabre-rattling" had not worked in the past. "To overreact to an overreaction would be undesirable," he said.

Although he said the situation was "a very worrying development", he hoped the Taiwanese elections on March 23 would put an end to "an unfortunate chapter in history".

The Government would continue to urge restraint on the part of the Chinese.

UK: Bank Governor Warns of Rushing Into Monetary Union

MS1403103096 London THE GUARDIAN in English
14 Mar 96 p 19

[Report by Richard Thomas: "Bank Governor Comes Out As A Eurosceptic"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Bank of England governor, Eddie George, yesterday defied European attempts to force Britain's hand on monetary union, warning that a dash for a single currency could shatter relations between European countries.

Nailing his colours to the Eurosceptic mast, Mr George said he had become increasingly doubtful about the benefits of full monetary union.

"If EMU [European Economic and Monetary Union] goes wrong it could become a serious source of political discord within Europe rather than contributing to European harmony," he told a Royal Institute of International Affairs conference in London.

The governor also clashed with his European counterparts by insisting that the pound did not have to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism in order to retain the option of taking part in a single currency.

He said it would be mindless to insist that a currency which had achieved stability outside the ERM [Exchange Rate Mechanism] be prevented from taking part

[Rifkind] You are referring to tea-room gossip, and you know perfectly well that that is all that it is. So do not ask me to speculate on odd bits of rumor that you picked up, or your colleagues have picked up in the tea rooms of the House of Commons. The place is full of rumor every day of the year; 99 percent of these rumors turn out to be incorrect.

[Snow] Well, this may be the 1 percent, because it is friends of Kenneth Clark...

[Rifkind interrupting] It may not.

[Snow] It is friends of Kenneth Clark who are talking to our correspondents...

[Rifkind, interrupting] They do not sound like friends to me. [laughter]

[Snow] Well, why not? Why shouldn't Mr. Clark be telling his friends if he really feels very strongly about it, that he will resign rather than accept a referendum?

[Rifkind] I am sorry, I am not going to be drawn into commenting on tea-room gossip. If you tell me who told you that, then I will know what weight to attach to it. If you are not prepared to tell me who told you that, then frankly this gossip is not worth the paper it is printed on.

[Snow] Well, all right. So, is the cabinet united then behind the idea of a referendum?

[Rifkind] The cabinet has invited me to prepare a paper on the question of a referendum. That is being worked on at the moment. It will be circulated to my cabinet colleagues, and we will come to a collective judgment as to what to do on the subject.

[Snow] Is the cabinet united?

[Rifkind] Of course. The cabinet will come to a united view on what to do on this proposal.

[Snow] Ah! But right now it is not united, is it?

[Rifkind] The Cabinet is not discussing it right now. It will discuss it after I have circulated the paper.

[Snow] I am going to come back to you again, if I may, with more substance on the actual White Paper, in just a moment, on Europe.

[Snow] Now Mr. Rifkind, you heard Mr. Patijn [Dutch minister for European affairs] saying it is your opening shot, you will compromise in the end?

[Rifkind] I do not know what he meant by that, and of course it is a long negotiation. I have no doubt there will be some very hard arguing that will go back and forward, but not just Britain. Every member state, including the Netherlands, will have its sticking

points, points that it feels strongly about, and which it will not compromise. And I think that is true in every negotiation. So of course there will be some issues on which all countries will feel able to be flexible; there will be others which they will not feel so flexible.

[Snow] To tackle the issue that he raises of the enlarged community, how can you, on the one hand, welcome the idea of an enlarged community, perhaps 25 members, while at the same time you are happy to see each of these members waving a veto around, surely it is a receipt for total deadlock?

[Rifkind] But that implies that there is not any majority voting at the moment. The fact is that on most of the issues which the European Union debate on a day-to-day basis — on the Common Agricultural Policy, on the Single Market, on much of transport policy, and environmental policy, health and safety policy — that is all already subject to majority voting.

[Snow] So, you are going against it in principle?

[Rifkind] No, I did not say that. I said what we are — if you would just let me complete the sentence — what we are saying is, there is already a very substantial body of majority voting. We are not prepared to see some of the most sensitive issues, for example: on fiscal matters, on questions of own resources, subjects which at the moment require unanimity, and which are very important issues, these are matters in which the requirements of individual countries should not be ignored.

[Snow] Those are fundamental issues. Do you... [pauses] Are you at least to give some ground to Leon Brittan, for example, and to Mr. Patijn, on areas like research and development areas where, perhaps, a bit of majority voting...

[Rifkind, interrupting] But that is the whole point, if I may say so.

[Snow] It might actually make things more efficient?

[Rifkind] But this is the whole point. If we are just talking about research and development, the idea that the whole of the enlargement of the European Union is going to succeed or fail, depending on whether we have majority voting on research and development, is absurd.

[Snow] So, you might allow majority voting in some areas like that?

[Rifkind] The reason why people like Mr. Patijn and his colleagues want more majority voting is not because it is necessary for an enlargement, but because they want to demonstrate their vision of Europe, which is one which is becoming ever more integrated, more supranational.

other things, I drew the Irish Government's attention to the need to act [words indistinct].

[Webb] So, you are off to Washington to see President Clinton. Are you going to be telling him that there is something more that he can do to get the process back on track?

[Trimble] Well, when I last saw President Clinton in February, just after the resumption of violence, I underlined the need for him to continue to support peace and democracy in Northern Ireland.

[Webb] He has done that, hasn't he?

[Trimble] He has. He has committed himself to those principles, and the way we see the future developing, in terms of assuring democracy to Northern Ireland, is through elections, through the convention, through the talks. And I know that he is supportive of that objective. With regard to peace, what I think he can do, what he started to do, is to put pressure on Sinn Fein-IRA, to maintain pressure on them. He started down that road by denying Mr. Adams and others access to the American Government and to the White House. I think he will have to follow it through by denying them permission to raise funds, and maybe even denying them access to the United States as a whole.

[Webb] Is that going — that is going to be a firm request from you, is it?

[Trimble] Well, I am not demanding or requesting things in that sense, I mean, when I spoke to the President in February, I made reference to the areas which I think he has to look at and to think about, and I know he has started to think about it, and I know he has started down that road. I can understand him wanting to proceed cautiously down that road. But the logic of events will take him further down that road.

UK: Loyalists Urged To Maintain Peace in Province
MS1403090896 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
in English 14 Mar 96 p 6

[Report by Robert Shrimmsley and Richard Savill: "Unionists Pressure Loyalists Gunmen To Keep The Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ulster Unionist leaders urged loyalist paramilitaries yesterday not to plunge the province back into sectarian violence. Their appeal came amid indications that the Government may be moving towards the party's position on the next phase of the peace initiative.

The appeal followed Tuesday's statement by the so-called Combined Loyalist Military Command warning that it was ready to match the IRA "blow for blow".

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionists, warned loyalists that such a step would be playing into the IRA's hands by undermining efforts to marginalise Republican terrorists.

"At the moment, I am convinced that the political policies here and in London, Dublin and in Washington are moving our way against the IRA and against Sinn Fein," he said.

His comments came at the end of 10 days of consultations between London, Dublin and the Northern Ireland parties on the form of elections for the peace convention from which representatives at the all-party talks in June will be drawn.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, said he had not reached a decision on the way forward but said it would be a "very remarkable thing" if all parties emerged with what they wanted. He meets Dick Spring, Irish deputy prime minister, in Dublin today and John Major is to announce the Government's conclusions on the formula for the elections early next week.

The central issue is the electoral system for the peace convention. As the largest party, the Ulster Unionists want a 90-member assembly based on the current 18 parliamentary constituencies with five members elected from each seat. Elections would be by single transferable vote.

The smaller parties such as the nationalist SDLP [Social Democratic Labour Party] and the more hardline Democratic Unionist Party prefer a list system which would improve their own representation.

Last night senior Northern Ireland Office sources said ministers were edging towards accepting the Ulster Unionist plan.

Mr Major, in Egypt for a conference on the Middle East peace process, met President Clinton and afterwards urged Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, to act on his call for the peace process to be revived.

Mr Adams, in New York for St Patrick's Day celebrations, said the process had to be restarted but Mr Major responded: "I hope he will show that in a practical way and persuade the IRA to cease fire and move towards a proper settlement.

"Thus far he has shown no signs of it. I hope he means what he says and I hope he will act on it."

German and European viewpoint, the continuation of reforms in the government, the economy, the judiciary, and society, and the country's further opening up to the world is of vital interest to us. It is important for us to know whether Russia acts on the basis of the old way of thinking or old structures, or whether it sees itself as part of the international community.

This was also one of the reasons most of my counterparts in Europe and I have emphatically advocated — against much resistance in the Council of Europe — admitting Russia as a member of the Council of Europe. If you know the charter of the Council of Europe you will know that high expectations and requirements are involved. Those who accede to the Council of Europe must, of course, meet these criteria which are continuously reviewed. Let me put it the way I formulated it in my brief dinner speech last night: We, the Germans, want to see Russia continue on the road to a free and parliamentary democracy, a constitutional state, economic and social stability.

We are pursuing a common goal — by saying we, I mean the countries of Western Europe as well as those of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe. We want to take the chance to organize Europe irrevocably on the basis of common values and political and economic entwinement, so that the 21st century, which will begin in a few years, becomes a century of peace and freedom.

In our talks, the Chechnya conflict has, of course, also played a major part. Boris Yeltsin told not only me, but said also in our meeting with the press yesterday that he is trying to find a political, a peaceful solution. He said yesterday — some of you were present — that if the Chechnya conflict was not settled peacefully by election day, this would decisively damage his election prospects.

We also discussed an issue on which we do not agree, as everyone knows; the issue of the enlargement of NATO. It is no secret that there are different opinions on this matter. I want to make clear the position that I have always represented. I think that it is up to the individual states, and a matter of their sovereignty, to decide whether or not they want to accede to NATO. In other words, an accession of the Central and Eastern European states is of course legitimate, there is no veto, and such an accession is not directed against anyone. But I have also said clearly that it is not in our interest — least of all in my own interest — to open up new gulfs in Europe, but an enlargement of NATO must be accompanied by a close system of living and working together with our Russian neighbors and friends, so that their well-understood security interests are also met.

I am a bit unhappy — and I said so months ago, also in the United States — that this issue was introduced in an election year. I do not at all like the debate that is currently being conducted in the United States prior to the primaries. Like communicating tubes, every such discussion on this or the other side of the Atlantic will promptly lead to counter-reactions in Moscow or Washington. Therefore, it is my urgent wish — and most of my counterparts in the West, including the U.S. President, agree with me — that we should put aside this issue for now, not in order to adjourn it, but in order to discuss it sensibly in normal times, when no elections are held.

This statement — I am saying this protectively because I have read amazing commentaries — does not mean that I have changed my position. I am saying nothing else here in Moscow but what I said in the Polish Sejm or in my discussions in the U.S. Congress. My position has always been that we should see both sides. We Germans in particular have an interest in pursuing a sensible balance. I think we will be much more successful than many people believe. I am seeing opportunities for a sensible living and working together.

Let me make another remark on the relations between Russia and the European Union. The EU is Russia's most important trading partner. A total of 55 percent of Russia's foreign trade goes into the EU. By the way — to illustrate it — this is 10 times the volume of Russian trade with the United States. My Russian interlocutors have clearly stated their intention to increase it. I have emphatically advocated Russia's further inclusion in the EU treaty network on the basis of the EU action plan for Russia of 20 November 1995. At the EU summit in Madrid in December, we agreed — and we will presumably do so again at the next EU summit in Florence late in June — that in planning international railroad lines, we should above all not forget to include St. Petersburg and Moscow.

You know this notion — and this is more than a vision — that these fast trains connecting London, Paris, Metz, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Berlin, Warsaw, and then Minsk, Moscow and, respectively, St. Petersburg are being seen as trans-European networks. I think it is one of the very important statements of the European Union that in the current discussions on the financing of this railroad line, this connection is not put on the back burner.

Regarding economic affairs, we have, of course, also discussed international and bilateral problems. For the future of the economic and reform process here, co-operation with the International Monetary Fund is of extremely great importance. If I am not mistaken, IMF President Michel Camdessus will come to Moscow very

proper conclusions from this situation. However, well-understood locational policy means not only a solution to existing economic and social adjustment requirements. The globalization of our markets is a challenge to our policy as a whole, including foreign policy. Thus foreign policy, by helping open up international markets for German products, is becoming an important locational factor. That is why the promotion of foreign trade, in addition to the classical areas, forms part of the strategic pillars of foreign policy.

What means are available for this purpose? Capital is known to avoid security policy risks. Preserving a peaceful environment in Europe, and the confidence we enjoy in the world are important locational attributes. That is why external security remains a key factor. It will continue to be safeguarded by the close interrelationship, pursued by German foreign policymakers, with our neighbors in and outside the European Union and the trans-Atlantic alliance.

The creation of a functioning and competitive European Union that is responsive to the citizenry, has a direct impact on Germany as a business location. This holds true above all for the planned monetary union. The German economy loses jobs as a result of monetary fluctuations and speculations. The failure of monetary union would bring the German mark as the European anchor currency under considerable pressure to revalue, which would be bound to jeopardize additional jobs.

The swift accession of the Central and Eastern European reform states to the European Union has high priority. Massive political and economic support for these states and the opening up of the European Union are already bearing substantial economic fruit. Trade with the 10 Eastern and Southeastern European countries with which the European Union has concluded association agreements increased almost 25 percent in the first half-year of 1995.

Foreign policy also plays an important part in the multi-lateral liberalization of international trade and payments transactions. What is clear is this: The securing and developing of a free world trade order by policymakers is of vital importance for the German economy. The globalization of the markets requires global partnership of the large regions. Only through consistent cooperation with other growth regions can markets be opened to German businessmen. The recent European-Asian summit in Bangkok has shown very clearly what functions policymakers have in this respect in paving the way. The results of the summit, which agreed on a "partnership for growth" between Asia and Europe, are a success of this policy. Along with business and industry and other social groups, the Federal Government has developed

successful regional concepts for Asia and Latin America. There are initial successes. In 1995, German firms exported goods worth 55 billion marks to Southeast Asia — 80 percent more than five years ago.

German foreign policymakers — including the foreign minister — act as door openers primarily on markets that, owing to distance, language, or legal system, seem to be difficult to tap for German companies. Embassies and consulates play an important role here. More than 50 percent of the diplomats are today dealing with business tasks in a broader sense. Our foreign cultural policy is an important help for our export trade; this has occasionally been underrated. On this background, I started an initiative this year, aimed at promoting cooperation between the government and business and industry in presenting our country and furthering our language abroad.

To avoid misunderstandings: Foreign policy is, of course, not limited to foreign trade promotion. However, this element is playing an increasingly important role in preserving our position in the world. The elimination of confrontation and enemy images has led to an enormous dynamization of the world economy and has created a huge challenge, including risks and opportunities. Those who want to have a say in the world of tomorrow must face this challenge today.

Germany: Scharping Urges Change in Policy Toward Iran

*LD1303092796 Berlin DDP/ADN in German
2224 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamburg (DDP/ADN) — Rudolf Scharping, parliamentary floor leader of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), has called on Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel to change his policy toward Iran. Scharping told the *HAMBURGER MORGENPOST* (Wednesday edition) that Kinkel's policy is "not in order and in part embarrassing," and that it "clearly contradicts" Bundestag statements on a "critical dialogue" with Iran. Kinkel has already been defeated in a vote once on this issue, Scharping said. He said he expects Kinkel will now "quietly" seek to correct his policy toward Iran.

Commenting on the antiterrorist summit in Egypt, Scharping said it could be useful if it was to "go beyond pure symbolic acts." In the view of the Social Democrats, the EU states "should discontinue their relations with all states that directly support terrorism," and this also applies to Iran and Libya.

conscription). But unlike the British, the French did not oppose the issue of the Western European Union (WEU). Between Bonn and Paris it is clear "that we will be able to apply the WEU to the structures of the EU at some point." The practical problems with the states that have so far been neutral are not as fundamental as they are with Britain, but these can be solved. The German negotiator is optimistic with regard to a common visa and asylum policy. France will go along. "But whether we will be able to reach a community in this field, whether our own domestic politicians really want that, is a completely different story."

Despite occasional differences, German-French cooperation in preparing the IGC has been working quite well, Hoyer says. An article that he published together with his French counterpart Michel Barnier recently has been well received. "I did not realize how much importance the others attach to that." It does not matter very much what such a paper says. The negotiating partners in the EU carefully watch any signals that show whether Bonn and Paris are willing to tackle the hot issues together.

Speaking of the EMU: Hoyer, who is trusted by the chancellor and the foreign minister, does not want a "link-up" between progress in integration at the IGC and the final agreement to EMU. Yet, he does see a "connection," because the citizens will only support the European currency if effective European action becomes possible in fields where it is expected. Only then will it be possible to conduct the European debate "with enthusiasm and a willingness to create something." "It will not work, if we are defensive and bad-tempered." But Hoyer would consider it an "essential mistake" if "we did not tell the people clearly that we have a fundamental interest in EMU for political and economic

reasons." If it does not come about, "the single market will remain incomplete, the mark will come under revaluation pressure, and the entire European unification is jeopardized."

Germany: Official Favors Normal Relations With Algeria

*LD1303212596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On his return to Germany Werner Hoyer, the secretary of state at the German Foreign Ministry, called for a normalization of relations with Algeria, and urged all German companies to show interest in Algeria. At a news conference held in Bonn today, Hoyer said: My recent visit to Algeria — the first of its kind by a German official since 1989 — must be followed by similar visits by other officials in the German Government.

The German official added: It is a mistake to ignore Algeria and Germany should not miss the opportunity which other states have seized, particularly at the political and economic levels.

Hoyer also declared that the 16 November elections, with a large turnout estimated at 75 percent, constituted an important step in Algeria's growth and development.

After mentioning that Germany does not play any part in the Algerian economy, Hoyer said that despite the current difficult circumstances, it was important for the German companies to have a clear idea about the opportunities which could be offered by the economic reforms and the privatization program in Algeria.

France: Political Parties Agree on Main IGC Issues

BR1401100796 Paris LIBERATION in French
13 Mar 96 p 12

[Report by Nicole Gauthier: "Europe Brings Political Parties Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two weeks before the inter-governmental Conference [IGC] opens in Turin on 29 March, the government is presenting today to the National Assembly the position which it intends to defend there. With the exception of the UDF [Union for French Democracy], all the political groupings have been busy, during recent weeks, preparing for this deadline which is providing them with the opportunity, four years on from Maastricht, to update their European positions. Ultimately, the divergences between the parties and the government are minimal.

The socialists, who want "to give meaning back to Europe," are insisting on the social area and employment ("Europe must be synonymous with social progress; otherwise it will, sooner or later, be legitimately rejected by the peoples of Europe and in particular by the French"). The RPR [Rally for the Republic], which retains a bitter memory of the discussions leading up to the ratification of the Treaty of Maastricht, remains ferociously hostile to federalism. The UDF, which is more preoccupied by the competition between Leontard, Madelin, and Roussiot (for the UDF presidency) than by the European question, has not succeeded in coming up with a project. Little matter. By calling at Aachen on 26 January for a "political revival" of Europe, Philippe Seguin got everyone to agree. Since then the French political spectrum has, miraculously, rediscovered that it was an absence of policy that the EU would mainly be suffering from.

Indeed, in terms of content, and with the exception of the PCF [French Communist Party], Jean-Pierre Chevènement's Citizens' Movement, and the National Front, a relative consensus reigns on the future construction of Europe. No doubt this consensus is fed by the high degree of caution by the parties, who are holding back from any daring proposals. In particular the debate on the date and arrangements for the implementation of the single currency appears for the time being to be closed. And, in unison, the political formations have decided to turn the Maastricht page. The socialists' guideline text stresses for example that "this matter is behind us," stipulating only that "the decision whether or not to adopt the single currency will be a political one." Only the socialist left (the Estienne Dray-Lienemann-Melenchon trio) is calling for a new European treaty to replace the Treaty of Maastricht on a more social basis.

The task therefore remains that of sketching out the future. On the inevitable enlargement of the EU to include other countries, the PS [Socialist Party] lays down one condition, that this be "an enrichment and not a weakening," a success and not "a regression to a simple free trade zone." The RPR, even though bent to the Gaullist dogma of a greater Europe, notes that, since it will have welcomed, after "transitional periods," Cyprus, Malta, the six Central and Eastern European countries, and the three Baltic states, the future Union "will have no vocation to go further, nor consequently to include Russia or the former republics of the USSR other than the Baltic states." The Gaullists are persuaded that a two or more speed Europe — on the one side a small number of states which are ready to go further or faster, and on the other hand a EU based on common law including everyone — is unavoidable. But the reference to the "hard core" in the preliminary report has been erased from the final text.

The other concern is the reform of the institutions. Everyone is agreed on this: Europe must be more "effective" and more "democratic." Socialists and Gaullists alike are recommending the extension of qualified majority voting in the Council, and a weighting of votes by country size. All are calling for a stricter definition of the Commission's role (the Commission is "a body with no democratic legitimacy" for the PS; the Commission should be restricted to the executive and advisory role which is rightly its instead of skidding noticeably in the effective but illegitimate direction of Union," the RPR insists). And the idea of giving Europe a voice and a face, at least in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), is gathering momentum. Jacques Chirac has proposed a Mr CFSP, an idea which the RPR has been quick to adopt, even if this differs from the "European president" which Girard [d'Estaing] once wished for and which Democratic Force's President François Bayrou is now calling for.

Obviously a certain number of distinguishing features remain. The PS — like the Greens — is pleading for a federal Europe and the development of "a genuinely European Constitution." It is also insisting on the need for the officials responsible for economic issues "being subject to democratic control in the face of the European Central Bank." The RPR is not budging from its mistrust of the European Parliament (EP) — "Even if the EP demands a right of codecision on an equal footing with the Council, is this enough to establish the democratic legitimacy of the decisions adopted in this way?" — and is calling for the "effective strengthening of the role of national parliaments."

Finally, while a large number of political leaders agree that Europe has sinned through its shortcomings in the

billions in 1996) and FF86 billion for equipment (down 18 percent compared to the last planning law). This budget does not include the cost of the civil returns of the national service, the cost of recapitalizing public weapons companies, or the money that will be needed for social and economic compensation plans for the restructuring of the defense industry.

Two other features of the report — reform of the national service and industrial reorganization — are of particular note. Special importance is attached to the reduction in the number of conscripts resulting from the professionalization of the armed forces. Two cases are mentioned: "If the decision is made to retain conscription in the framework of a new, obligatory form of national service, then that section of the contingent not required by the Armed Forces will be transferred to new forms of civil service. If, on the other hand, the principle of voluntary service is opted for, an as-yet unspecified age category will be determined after

which national service will no longer be required. Young people who have already been drafted will carry out their military duties normally, however long the postponement they have been accorded."

In both cases there will be no obligatory retirement for officers in active service, although this supposes "a significant incentive scheme so that enough officers agree to early retirement before the date imposed for their rank."

Finally, where the plan for the reorganization of the arms industry is concerned, the government has set four targets: "cutting costs" by developing fixed price and multiannual contracts; "finding a critical mass" by finding additional investors; "building a real European industry which will require 'a sign of European commitment by the countries engaged in the process of European construction'"; and "conquering new markets."

The New Army Model in 20 Years

1995 Situation	2015 Situation
Land Arms	
239,000 servicemen	136,000 servicemen
42,000 civilian conscripts	14,000 civilian conscripts
9 Divisions, 120 combat regiments	64 combat regiments split into four units
900 tanks	620 tanks
150 light armored vehicles	150 light armored vehicles
140 helicopters	180 helicopters
Navy	
63,000 servicemen	65,500 servicemen
6,000 civilian conscripts	11,000 civilian conscripts
314,000 tonnes (100 vessels)	234,000 tonnes (81 vessels)
5 strategic submarines	3 strategic submarines
2 aircraft carriers	1 or 2 aircraft carriers (with 60 Rafale and 5 Mirage fighter aircraft)
6 nuclear attack submarines	4 nuclear attack submarines
7 diesel submarines	0 diesel submarines
15 first class frigates	12 first class frigates
13 maritime patrol aircraft	23 maritime patrol aircraft (Air Force)
80,000 servicemen	65,000 servicemen
4,000 civilian conscripts	7,000 civilian conscripts
600 combat aircraft	500 combat aircraft (Rafale fighters)

Cyprus: Kliridhis Notes Initiatives in Cyprus Issue

NC1303134396 Athens Elliniki Radiofonia Radio
Network in Greek 1200 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive statement to the ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis has stressed: For the first time there is unanimity between the United States and EU that Cyprus must enter a united Europe. At the same time, Mr. Kliridhis revealed that there are three initiatives—U.S., British, and EU—on the horizon to solve the Cyprus issue. He made it clear that the U.S. initiative is expected in June.

The Cypriot president noted that, by all indications, the methodology of Washington—which he will visit in June for talks with President Clinton—consists of helping both sides to narrow their differences and not in a ready plan for the solution. However, Mr. Kliridhis did not rule out the possibility that if progress is made at the talks Washington might consider a new Camp David to find a final settlement to the problem.

President Kliridhis also said that the EU Commission had made it clear, through Hans van den Broek, that imposes no conditions or vetos on Cyprus' accession; they merely prefer that a solution to the problem be found prior to accession. Mr. Kliridhis further stressed that he will not accept a Cyprus solution with the old system of guarantees.

Reacting to the recent statement by Rauf Denktas on the massacre of missing persons, Mr. Kliridhis said that the investigation of every file must continue on the basis of the criteria agreed upon at the missing persons committee.

Finally, President Kliridhis defended the unified defense doctrine which, as he put it, functioned properly during the recent Greek-Turkish crisis.

Cyprus: Clerides Views EU Aims To Broker Cyprus Deal

MS1403093696 London THE EUROPEAN in English
14-20 Mar 96 p 15

[Report on 'Exclusive' interview with Cyprus president Glavkos Clerides, by Ian Mather; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We are very busy. We have a lot of visitors, said Glavkos Clerides, president of Cyprus.

Most of those visitors to the presidential palace that once used to be the residence of British colonial governors seem to be emissaries from European governments. The Europeans perceive a "window of opportunity" to broker

a settlement in Cyprus in the run-up to its accession to the European Union.

The Americans, too, are flocking to the divided island. The Clinton administration is keen to pull off a Bosnia-style deal here before the presidential election, and has declared that 1996 is the year of the "big push" on Cyprus.

Yet I was left in no doubt about the deep hatreds here when I almost failed to be counted among Clerides' visitors, even though arrangements for an interview with him had been properly made.

Stamps were discovered in my passport showing that I had visited the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is not internationally recognised. The head of immigration raced out of his office. When I explained that I had been to interview Rauf Denktas, the northern Cypriot leader, it was decided to allow me into the country but to "cancel" the northern Cyprus entry and exit stamps, even though they were no longer valid.

An official then indulged in an orgy of stamping the word "cancel" on the offending page until all evidence of my visit to the forbidden north had been obliterated.

Yet it is possible that at long last, after 22 years of partition in Cyprus, there may be a glimmer of hope.

Clerides, in an exclusive interview with The European, said: "Europe is beginning to realise that the solution to problems within the European area of influence cannot always be left to the United States.

"This is particularly so in the case of Cyprus, where, unlike in Bosnia, there is no fighting and no need to call upon the US and Nato. Here it is a question of negotiation. The Europeans know they have to do something to establish the image of a united Europe.

The Europeans need a diplomatic success in Cyprus. Their collective reputation was severely dented by the failure over Bosnia, and then again by their embarrassing inaction over the recent confrontation between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean. US special envoy Richard Holbrooke the godfather of the Bosnian peace deal, accused the Europeans of "sleeping" while he, on behalf of the US, pulled the two sides back from the brink of war. The rebuke still rankles. Clerides said: "We had a visitor from France, Claude Martin, deputy director-general of the foreign ministry. And we have just heard that the director-general from the German foreign ministry will be here on 11 March.

"We have also been informed that Hans van den Broek, the EU's commissioner for relations with the rest of

at the German Foreign Ministry, concluded his contacts in Cyprus yesterday and, according to a diplomatic source, a meeting of diplomats from the three countries should now be expected to determine the next step.

Before his departure from Cyprus yesterday, Mr. Ischinger said that "this week we will discuss with our partners their impressions and views on the Cyprus issue."

The government spokesman's statement yesterday was also indicative, predicting that the interest of the EU member countries, particularly of the big member countries such as Germany and France, will now continue. The spokesman also noted that the EU member states "are at the stage of formulating a way to support the EU efforts for a solution." One of the questions occupying the three countries is the role to be played by the presidency coordinator. Bonn and Paris do not appear to favor the idea of changing the holder of this post but, on the other hand, they do not see Rome maintaining this privilege after the end of his EU Presidency term in July. The three countries, primarily Germany and France, have changed their initial ideas about institu-

tionalizing the coordinating group through the Ministerial Council in order to avoid a British reaction or an attempt by Britain to affect the terms of the group's good offices. Responding to O FILELEVTHEROS' question on whether Britain appears prepared to coordinate action with its three EU partners, a foreign diplomat said indicatively: "Naturally, the British are willing to coordinate, but with Washington."

Nicosia is looking positively at the likely formation of a group within the EU to deal with the Cyprus issue since the government appears to believe that such a development would further strengthen the image of Cyprus as a future partner.

Government spokesman Ioannis Kasoulidhis referred to the visit by the German official, saying "we believe that the visit had positive results" and supported his prediction that the European interest will continue and that the perspective of Cyprus as a future EU partner creates within its member states, particularly the big member countries, an increased interest for a Cyprus solution.

Finally, Pangalos said there is a proposal by Bulgarian Foreign Minister Georgi Pirinaki, which will also be discussed, on extending the original nucleus of the three participating countries with others, mainly the

democracies arising after former Yugoslavia's split.
[passage omitted]

It is speculated that Berger is going to bring a courtesy message of President Bill Clinton to Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

The Parliament has to vote on whether or not to extend Provide Comfort's mandate before March 31. The National Security Council (MGK), an advisory body chaired by President Suleyman Demirel, is to have a meeting on the issue on March 23. On March 27, President Demirel will make a working visit to the United States.

"The visit will enable the two countries to reaffirm the existing good ties... The two leaders will take up all issues of concern between Turkey and the United States, assess the regional role played by Turkey and exchange views on international developments," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Movement of troops along the border

Responding to a question on Turkish troop build-up in northern Iraq, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurkan replied that Turkey had "important security concerns. It is natural that the Turkish army should take necessary care to prevent the PKK infiltration from northern Iraq," he said.

Turkey: Deputy Chief of Staff Comments on Talks in U.S.

NC1303164596 Ankara *TURKISH DAILY NEWS*
in English 12 Mar 96

[Report by Ugur Akinci — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON — A Turkish military delegation including Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Cevik Bir, Secretary General of the Turkish National Security Council Gen. Ilhan Kilic and other senior officers has completed its week-long tour of New York and Washington and returned to Turkey at the weekend, seemingly with bags full.

Reporting "very satisfactory" contacts with his counterparts at the Pentagon, the Department and U.S. National Security Council, Gen. Bir hinted of breakthroughs and gains in several issues important for Turkey.

Deputy National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, Deputy Secretary of Defense Jan Lodall, Bosnia Inter-agency Task Force Director Jim Pardew and Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Kittani were among the U.S. officials visited by Bir and Kilic.

Coproduction

Gen. Bir said the U.S. officials were told that the Turkish defense industry had reached a point of development where it ceased to be a simple market. Turkey is

today ready for coproduction in many fields and can participate in consortia, Bir said.

Concerning the expected sale of frigates and Super Cobra helicopters, Bir said he expected the State Department to send notification soon to the Congress.

Kardak

Kardak and the tensions in the Aegean were among the issues discussed between Turkish and U.S. officials. "We do not have ships in the area but coast guard vessels," Gen. Kilic explained. "We are for dialogue," he said. Gen. Bir said Turkish Chief of Staff Gen. Ismail Hakkı Karadayı had proved Turkish goodwill when, as he was flying through Greek airspace on his way back from Italy, he sent his best wishes to his Greek counterpart.

Opting for Balance

Concerning the dominant approach of the United States to regional conflicts, Gen. Kilic said: "The United States always opts for a balance between the parties. It does not choose one side over the other." Yet on the terrorism issue, for example, Kilic said that did not prevent the Turks from telling everyone that Greece gave aid and support to the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. "The allies get involved directly only during very important crises," he said.

Israel

Gen. Bir emphasized the importance of developing relations between Turkey and Israel, and mentioned the recently signed Turkish-Israeli Military Education Cooperation Agreement as a step taken in that direction. "This agreement was received very positively by the United States," Bir said. "As two democracies in the Middle East, Turkey and Israel want to show the other countries in the region the benefits of democratic cooperation," he added, emphasizing that the agreement between Turkey and Israel was educational in character and not a defense agreement.

Rules of Engagement

The Turkish generals discussed at a technical level the changes that Turkey wanted to see in Operation Provide Comfort.

Among such technical items was a change in the rules of engagement. Gen. Bir said that the question of what constituted the "right to self-defense" formed the core of such discussions with U.S. officials. Other sources told the TDN [*TURKISH DAILY NEWS*] that Turkey complained that Provide Comfort had created an authority vacuum in northern Iraq which the PKK

ethnic Turks who were forced to emigrate from Bulgaria; the distribution of the housing units that have been constructed or that will be constructed for these individuals; the transfer of the property deeds; and procedures concerning housing loans in line with the amendments made to the housing law. He will also be responsible for conducting relations with the Turkic republics, the Turkic communities, and the brotherly communities, and for research, planning, and coordination concerning these republics and communities. His tasks will also incorporate the coordination of the pertinent activities within the framework of the laws that deal with the absorption and settlement of the Akhalsikhe Turks in Turkey. The transport and coordination of the humanitarian aid being extended to communities outside Turkey are among Gokdemir's sphere of duties. He will also be responsible for all the planning and coordination services concerning the refugees that arrive in Turkey, for assessing all applications and correspondence on the issue, and for securing the coordination of the activities of small artisans and shopkeepers in the Turkic republics. The presidency of the Ataturk Association for Culture Language and History has been subordinated to Gokdemir.

State Minister Cemil Cicek's spheres of duty will consist of relations with the parliament and the administration of the fund for social aid and solidarity. The Religious Affairs Directorate and the General Directorate of Religious Foundations have been subordinated to Cicek.

The Village Affairs Directorate General has been made subordinate to State Minister Ibrahim Yasar Dedelek.

State Minister Ali Talip Ozdemir's spheres of duty will consist of relations with the parliament, the administration of the advertising fund, the presidency of the high council of communications, and the presidency of the national organization of the Turkish-Europalia festival. The General Directorate of the Press and Publications has been made subordinate to Ozdemir. The Turkish Radio and Television Directorate General and the Anatolia Agency General Directorate have been attached to his ministry.

State Minister Unal Erkan will be responsible for relations with the parliament and the presidency of the natural disasters coordination council. The presidency of the Public Housing Fund and the General Directorate of Land Registration and Surveying have also been attached to his ministry.

The Youth and Sports Directorate General, the presidency of the Football Federation and the State Meteorological Affairs Directorate General fall under the control of State Minister Ersin Taranoglu.

State Minister Halit Dagli will be responsible for relations with the parliament. The Supreme Control Council has been attached to his ministry. He will also be responsible for the Directorate General of the Turkey and Middle East Public Administration Institute.

Culture Minister Agah Oktay Guner will be the government spokesman and will be responsible for relations with the parliament.

Forestry Minister Nevzat Ercan will also be responsible for relations with the parliament.

Turkey: Ecevit's Views on Government Program Reported

NC1403085596 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish
11 Mar 96 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Democratic Left Party (DS) leader Bulent Ecevit has addressed the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) on the government program. He pointed to the shortcomings in the program and outlined his views. Ecevit's views, which can be regarded as "conditions" for the DSP's continued support for the Motherland Party (ANAP)-True Path Party (DYP) Government, can be summed up as follows:

1. A provision in the government protocol says that the ANAP and the DYP will cooperate during the presidential election and the election of the speaker of the National Assembly. That is unconstitutional. I hope that this provision, which was probably included in the protocol by mistake, will be removed.
2. New laws must conform to the Constitution. A government that respects the Constitution must enact laws that conform to it. It is unforgivable that this matter has been overlooked.
3. The government may decide to quickly establish an Economic and Social Council. That would not require any legal arrangements.
4. The ministers are attending ceremonies and banquets, so how can they spare time for their work and consultations with their numerous advisers? I hope that the government will act to prevent officials from wasting time.
5. A caring state must be established. It must be a loving institution, not an arrogant one. The Prime Minister's Office must be reformed. It has become a cumbersome executive organ, as in the case of the state. I hope that Mesut Yilmaz will rectify that.
6. The IMF has to be blamed for many of our economic problems. The existing problems cannot be resolved with harsh measures. A fair tax system must be drawn

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